

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus are disclosed for harvesting portions of an animal carcass, most preferably for harvesting chicken paws from a chicken carcass which is determined to be of edible quality. The chicken paws and the remainder of the carcass are separated at a point prior to inspection of the carcass, and are transported toward harvesting stations along separate processing lines. By correlating the shackles on which the feet and the carcass are supported on the respective processing lines, the feet are positively matched to the carcass to ensure that the feet will be harvested only if the carcass is determined to be of edible quality.

1. A method for harvesting portions of an animal carcass, comprising:  
 (a) determining the quality of an animal carcass;  
 (b) separating the carcass into a first portion and a second portion;  
 (c) transporting the first portion along a first processing line;  
 (d) transporting the second portion along a second processing line;  
 (e) correlating the first portion and the second portion;  
 (f) harvesting the first portion if the second portion is determined to be of edible quality.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the animal carcass is a chicken carcass.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first portion is a chicken paw.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the second portion is a chicken carcass.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first portion is a chicken paw.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the second portion is a chicken carcass.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first portion is a chicken paw.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the second portion is a chicken carcass.